REMARKS

In view of the final Action, claims in the application are amended to a variable cut-off length rotary printing machine comprising a printing unit that can vary the cut-off length of a web by changing the outside diameter of a printing cylinder, and a folding machine provided downstream of the printing unit of the rotary printing machine.

Namely, it is amended such that a rotary printing machine according to the present invention is limited to a variable cut-off length rotary printing machine which can vary the cut-off length of a web by changing the outside diameter of a printing cylinder (page 36, lines 2 to 6, and page 39, line 21 to page 40, line 5 of the specification).

In the previous amendment, it is clarified that the second belt conveyor (downstream belt conveyor 57A) comprises a motor (second motor) for changing the speed of conveyor belts (guide belts 59a, 59b), and due to this motor, the speed of the conveyor belts varies, so that a sheet conveying speed varies from the first speed to the second speed (page 44, lines 2 to 19 of the specification).

When the cut-off length of the web is changed by changing the outside diameter of the printing cylinder in the variable cut-off length rotary printing machine according to the present invention, if the rotation speed of the printing cylinder is equal, the speed of the web varies in accordance with the change of the outside diameter of the printing cylinder. Accordingly, the speed (first speed) of the first belt conveyor comprising a pair of conveyor belts for nipping and conveying the web, also varies in accordance with the change of the size of the outside diameter of the printing cylinder, i.e., the cut-off length of the web.

After the second belt conveyor receives the sheet which is cut off from the web at the changed first speed, a sheet conveying speed changes to meet the speed (second speed) at a downstream processing unit, and then, the sheet is delivered to the processing unit. The speed change during this conveyance is performed by the speed change of the motor which drives the belt conveyor. Thus, even if the cut-off length varies, the sheet can be properly supplied to the processing unit with the constant speed (second speed).

None of the cited references in the previous Action discloses the features of the variable cut-off length rotary printing machine according to the present invention.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KANESAKA BERNER & PARTNERS

Manabu Kanesaka
Registration No. 31,467

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 519-9785